

REVISIONS TO CLAIMS

1-10 (canceled)

1 11. (new) A receiver comprising:

- 2 * means for receiving signals in a frequency band, the frequency band having a plurality of
3 substantially equally spaced and sized frequency channels, each channel comprising a
4 respective plurality of frequency regions, each respective plurality comprising a respective
5 known frequency region in which data signals are most easily detectable; and
6 * means for searching the band for at least one channel containing useful data, the searching
7 means being adapted to perform operations, the operations comprising:
8 • starting the search with a predetermined frequency value, this predetermined frequency
9 value being within the respective known frequency region of a given channel; and
10 • stepwise scanning segments of the frequency band from the predetermined frequency
11 value in accordance with frequency steps, the frequency steps being substantially equal to
12 the bandwidth of the frequency channels, the segments being frequency sub-bands that
13 are substantially narrower than a channel, so that each step takes the scanning to a
14 particular segment of the frequency band that is contained within the respective known
15 region of a successive channel.

12. (new) The receiver of claim 11, wherein the predetermined frequency value is based on the
last known good signal.

13. (new) The receiver of claim 11, wherein the predetermined frequency value is
preprogrammed.

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14. (new) A CATV system comprising a primary station and a secondary station, which secondary station comprises a receiver as recited in claim 11.

1 15. (new) A method comprising executing operations in at least one data processing device, the
2 operations comprising:
3 * receiving signals in a frequency band, the frequency band having a plurality of substantially
4 equally spaced and sized frequency channels, each channel comprising a respective plurality
5 of frequency regions, each respective plurality comprising a respective known frequency
6 region in which data signals are most easily detectable; and
7 * searching the band for at least one channel containing useful data, the searching comprising:
8 • starting the search with a predetermined frequency value, this predetermined frequency
9 value being within the respective known frequency region of a given channel; and
10 • stepwise scanning segments of the frequency band from the predetermined frequency
11 value in accordance with frequency steps, the frequency steps being substantially equal to
12 the bandwidth of the frequency channels, the segments being frequency sub-bands that
13 are substantially narrower than a channel, so that each step takes the scanning to a
14 particular segment of the frequency band that is contained within the respective known
15 region of a successive channel.

16. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined frequency value is based on the last known good signal.

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17. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined frequency value is preprogrammed.

18. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein the data processing device comprises a television receiver coupled to a CATV system.